

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
March 16, 2007
Makah Marina Building
Neah Bay, Washington

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, National Marine Sanctuary Program
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925
FAX # 360-457-8496

Reviewed by SAC Secretary

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent

Approved by SAC

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
March 16, 2007

Members Present:

Bob Bohlman, Marine Industry
(Acting Chair)
Jim Woods, Makah Tribe
Steve Joner, Makah Tribe
Fan Tsao, Conservation Alternate
Martha Hurd, Washington DNR (Secy.)
Norm Davis, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Rebecca Post, Dept. of Ecology Alternate
Hayden Street, U.S. Navy
Teresa Scott, Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Kevin Ryan, US Fish & Wildlife
Al Hightower, Commercial Fishing
Doug Fricke, Commercial Fishing Alt.
Bob Morse, Citizen-at-Large
Tyler Jurasin, Hoh Tribe
Lew Moore, NW Straits Commission

Staff

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Andy Palmer, Coordinator
Cheryl Sinclair, Recording Secretary

Guests/Public Attendees:

Blanchard Matte, Makah Tribe
Wade Greene, Makah Tribe
Roger Bain, Makah Tribe
Chad Bowechop, Makah Tribe
Chris Jones, Makah Tribe
Sue Wolf, Makah Tribe
Polly Dyer, Olympic Coast Alliance
Jennifer Hagen, NW Indian Fisheries

Welcome

In Terrie Klinger's absence, Vice Chair Bob Bohlman called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Jim Woods introduced Blanchard Matte, Makah Tribal Council, who welcomed the SAC to Neah Bay and emphasized the need for protection and sharing of the natural resources in the area. Mr. Matte told the history of the Makah name, which came from the Clallam Tribe. Jim Woods then introduced Wade Greene, who explained the Makah custom of opening gatherings with a prayer, and then sang a traditional Makah prayer.

Agenda/Meeting Minutes

Changes to the proposed agenda included postponement of oath and seating of new members. Carol Bernthal introduced Al Hightower as the new representative for the commercial fishing seat and acknowledged Geoff Grillo's many years of service on the council. Doug Fricke will continue as the alternate. Ellen Matheny will be the primary education representative, with Gene Woodwick as the alternate. The new members will be sworn in at the May meeting. Al Hightower gave his background and history in the fishing industry and indicated he is happy to be on the council.

Teresa Scott pointed out one change to the January minutes: she participated in the climate change workshop in Washington, D.C. (last paragraph of January minutes). Teresa Scott **moved** to approve the January minutes as amended. The motion was **seconded** by Fan Tsao and **approved** with no objections or abstentions.

Endorsement of 2007 Coastal Cleanup

Fan Tsao **moved** that the SAC adopt a resolution to endorse the 2007 coastal cleanup and also to thank the organizers and volunteers. **Seconded** by Rebecca Post and **approved** with no objections or abstentions. Carol asked that members distribute the coastal cleanup flyers to their networks.

Draft Annual Operating Plan (PowerPoint Presentation)

Carol Bernthal indicated the AOP is still in draft form because a budget has not been finalized. Carol reviewed the past few years' budgets, explaining the relationship between the presidential requests and the amounts approved by Congress. She reviewed the allocation of funds projected for 2007, which may have to be changed depending on the approved budget. Because of rising costs and limited funds, priorities being considered are: honoring past commitments that are relevant and completing projects already started; protecting infrastructure investments such as Olympic Coast Discovery Center; honoring long-term commitments; continuing development of the Intergovernmental Policy Council. The sanctuary is hoping to partner with other agencies and the state of Washington to accomplish some goals, including research and habitat mapping. Carol reviewed policy and program development; plans for research and monitoring and reports; resource protection programs; permitting and enforcement; emergency preparedness (including a large-scale safety drill in the sanctuary in 2008); Big Eddy marine ecosystem initiative; cooperation interpretation; Seattle Aquarium partnership; cooperative interpretation; ocean literacy strategic planning; Olympic Coast Discovery Center; and administration and operations.

Discussion topics included: negotiating conditions in future permits which require a certain amount of monitoring to be paid for by applicants; NOAA funds allocated to research and specific projects such as large-scale integrated ocean observing systems; the need for additional funding for year-round real time mooring information in the sanctuary; allocation of funding between the sanctuaries.

NOAA Climate Change Workshop (PowerPoint Presentation)

In Terrie Klinger's absence, Teresa Scott reported on the climate change workshop attended in Washington, D.C. in January, focusing on marine protected areas. Teresa presented statistics, photographs and warming charts reflecting some of the results of climate change, including: reduction in the north polar ice cap; temperature averages; sea surface temperature and heat content of the ocean resulting in species changes, different areas and rates of migration and

shifting species related to temperature; acceleration in the rate of change in ocean pH. Calcifying species like corals are severely affected by decreasing pH. Sea levels are rising along most U.S. coasts, which will affect the nearshore environment and coastal flooding. Teresa discussed some of the reasons for change in sea levels. Currently there are changes in ocean circulation and upwelling; increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms; coral bleaching events. Teresa commented that studies are being conducted on lands under federal control, such as national forest, parks, estuaries, wildlife refuges, marine protected areas (primarily national marine sanctuaries), and wild and scenic rivers. The studies nearest to OCNMS are in the Channel Islands and Olympic National Forest, Okanogan in Oregon, and North Forks of the American River.

Currently there is a need to identify what impacts we can do something about and what impacts we can't, and develop strategies for both. Sample actions would be county scale maps depicting which areas will require shore protection; analyze environmental consequences of shore protection (pollution as sea level rises); promote shore protection techniques that don't destroy all habitat; identify land use measures to ensure that wetlands migrate as sea levels rise; engage state and local governments in response to sea level rise. Likewise, it is important to include chapters on climate change in sanctuary management plans and have council plans address climate change.

There were lengthy discussions focusing on: creating resilience in salmon stock and maintaining genetic diversity in a species population which might allow them to adapt to changing conditions; adaptation of species versus maintaining current species; results of pH changes on not just corals but on some plankton which are a food source for birds and marine mammals. Andy commented on an article indicating there are three human behaviors to confront with global warming: mitigation; adaptation; suffering and the degree to which we experience the last two depends on how much emphasis is put on mitigation. Bob Bohlman indicated there is an air emissions study ongoing by Starcrest, a consulting firm, to establish a base line for air emissions from shipping. The SAC may want to have someone from that group give a presentation.

Carol commented some regional work has started, with the USGS doing a sea level rise assessment for Olympic National Park to look at projection of where sea level rise might occur and how would it affect the resources along the coast. Climate change will be discussed at the next sanctuary managers' meeting looking at climate change on sanctuaries and how to start to prepare for the future. On the Olympic Peninsula, the national park has already done some study on sea level rise. Rebecca Post suggested gathering information from UW and the Governor's panel so as not to duplicate efforts.

Public Comment:

Polly Dyer indicated there will be a Northwest Wilderness Conference in the spring of 2008 at which climate change will be addressed. Bob Morse announced that the Washington state

Audubon has been putting a series out on birding trails in Washington and has just completed one on the Olympic Peninsula.

Aqua Energy Work Group Report:

Rebecca Post reported on work done by the group regarding review for the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment for the Aqua Energy wave energy pilot project of four buoys proposed for Makah Bay and development of recommendations for consideration by FERC in issuance of a license for the project. The purpose of the PDEA is to analyze the project and consider whether or not it should be permitted and what conditions should be attached to it. Comments are directed for improvement to the PDEA so it can be better interpreted.

Discussion topics included: difficulty in researching effects of the project because this is new technology; asking that Aqua Energy do more monitoring to collect preliminary background data and data on the project once installed; discussion of anchoring system on buoys; concerns about entrapment of marine mammals; concerns about proper marking of the area and education to fishing community about location of the project; concerns about electromagnetism; need for eel grass survey; concerns about loss of fishing area; monitoring of species in the immediate area and effects of the project on those species.

Martha Hurd indicated there was recently a very productive meeting between state and federal agencies, Tribal representatives, and Aqua Energy (now Finavera). A lot of the comments put together by the work group mirror concerns and questions of state and federal agencies. Teresa Scott discussed recommendations of the Department of Fish & Wildlife. Steve Joner indicated the Tribal Council is very supportive of this pilot project. Jennifer Hagen pointed out the standing policy of not restricting access to any area except within Tribal UA's.

Andy clarified that the actual letter that will go to FERC will be slightly different than the text before us because it will include the normal boilerplate disclaimer language that all council documents contain and that the letter will reflect the comments as a position of the full council, rather than just of the workgroup. In all other aspects, the comments in the workgroup letter will remain the same.

Rebecca Post **moved** the SAC adopt the recommendations of the work group with the modifications made (as Andy previously indicated). This was **Seconded** by Steve Joner. There was discussion about the process of a resolution being adopted by the council asking the sanctuary superintendent to submit the resolution/comments to FERC. Rebecca amended the motion to include forwarding the resolution/comments by the sanctuary superintendent to FERC. Motion **passed** with no opposition or abstentions.

Superintendent's Report

Carol Bernthal reported on her trip to Washington D.C. for congressional briefing which included

topics of Neah Bay rescue tug; oil spill issues; area to be avoided program and compliance rates; development of Intergovernmental Policy Council. Carol had recent discussions with DOE and the Port of Seattle regarding existing MOA on cruise ships, which will be coming up for renewal, and possible amendments. In answer to a question from Teresa Scott, Norm Davis indicated cruise ships have no discharge in national parks such as Glacier Bay. There were discussions regarding discharge regulations within state waters and within other sanctuaries.

Carol reported on the two GRP workshops held, and indicated there will be a follow-up meeting in the next month. Rebecca Post commented that the input from the sanctuary regarding the GRP's was invaluable because of knowledge of the outer coast. There was discussion about access to the GRP's and use by the first responders and follow-up teams.

ATBA compliance information for 2006 has been formulated, which will be forwarded to DOE for inclusion in the Vessel Entries and Transits (VEAT).

There have been a series of meetings regarding the Pacific cable crossing. After discussions are complete, the next step will be for the sanctuary, the Makah Tribe and Corps of Engineers to decide whether to sign a completion of work letter saying the work was completed as best they were able. It has not been decided whether there will be sea floor monitoring this summer.

Andy Palmer commented that he will try to get all of the resolutions passed by the SAC available on the website.

There were discussions regarding aquaculture within sanctuaries. Carol indicated to date there have been no permit requests for aquaculture in the sanctuary.

West Coast Chairs/Coordinator's Meeting

Carol reported the meeting will not be held due to the budget situation. There was discussion regarding status of the west coast study and ongoing work and cooperation in the west coast region. Carol suggested having the case studies written up and distributed in lieu of the meeting. Steve Joner indicated there has been talk of funding a liaison between the five sanctuaries and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, which would facilitate communication and interaction. After discussion, Bob Bohlman agreed to present comment (during public comment period) on behalf of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary advisory council at the PFMC meeting in April indicating the advisory council is interested in staying in touch with the PFMC process.

Intergovernmental Policy Council

Jim Woods' presentation focused on establishment of the Intergovernmental Policy Council, which culminated in a signing ceremony at the state capitol in January, with the four coastal tribes, the State of Washington and OCNMS. Jim's presentation included photographs of the signing ceremony. Jim emphasized the importance of establishing a better form of

communication and government-to-government policy through the IPC and indicated that the various governments can move in the same direction in research and environmental protection. The first meeting of the IPC was held after the signing ceremony, establishing interim representatives from each tribe and the Governor's office. Those representatives will be formalized by letter from each council or by resolution. Jim was appointed acting chair. The first official meeting was held at Quinault and there have been a couple of conference calls to organize. The next meeting will be April 25 at Neah Bay.

Carol commented that, to her knowledge, this is the first of this type of council within NOAA, and it shows the flexibility of the sanctuary program in creating structures which reflect the local conditions, needs and responsibilities. Carol complimented Jim on his work as acting chair and Jennifer Hagen for her support of the council.

Public Comment

Polly Dyer gave the history of creation of Olympic Coast Alliance. The purpose of OCA is to assure a healthy coast ecosystem through public education and outreach. OCA's current activity is discussion of compatible uses of marine sanctuaries. They are looking at regulations regarding compatible uses within OCNMS and other sanctuaries and hope to develop a working group within OCA to continue work on what compatibility should be. Their next meeting is March 31.

Meeting Comments/Future Agendas/Adjourn

Member report May meeting - NW Straits Commission

Future agenda items – Report on the NOAA MPA Center strategic plan.

Biogeographic report on oceanography and fisheries status report (probably won't be ready for the May meeting)

Update on National Marine Sanctuary Act

Habitat Conservation Plan

The May meeting will probably be in the southern part of the sanctuary, but no definite site yet.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.